

Subsidized Child Care Program - Local Payment Policies

In Montgomery County subsidized child care services may be provided to families demonstrating a need for child care, and who have been determined eligible for services.

Reasons care is needed include:

- To support client employment
- To support the delivery of child protective services
- To support education/training services leading to employment
- To support developmental needs of children
- To support the delivery of child welfare services

All financial resources available to a family must be explored and counted in the total budget unit. It is suggested that applicants talk with the Child Support Unit within five (5) days of making an application for child care, if the absent parent(s) is/are not under a current order.

Note: There is countable and non-countable income in determining family income for child day care assistance. Please contact the Montgomery County Child Care Office at (910) 576-6531 for an accurate assessment of family eligibility.

All families who are income eligible for child care services are required to pay a portion of the cost of child care through fees. This is called the Parent Fee. The Parent Fee amount is based on the household size and household income.

Parental Choice

Federal regulations of subsidized child care funds require that parents be allowed to choose a child care arrangement from a variety of types of providers. Parental Choice is an important component of child care services. Parents have the right to select a child care provider for their children. The Montgomery County Social Services makes every effort to place children in the child care arrangements selected by parents. Child Care staff works with the parents to help them make informed choices about child care.

Factors to Consider in Choosing Child Care

- Special needs of the child which would require a specific type of care
- Hours when child care is needed, based on work or school schedule, including travel time
- Type of program the parent desires, such as center-based or home-based care
- Convenience of the child care arrangement to home, work, or school
- Difference between regulated and unregulated child care
- Factors such as group size, staff/child ratio, staff qualifications
- Substantiation of abuse or neglect of child care provider
- Discipline Policy

Questions To Ask Child Care Provider

Basics:

- Is the program licensed/registered?
- Are the hours acceptable & fees affordable?
- Is the facility safe and well maintained?
- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Are the toys safe and appropriate?
- Is there good light and ventilation?
- Are the medicines and cleaning products locked away?

Care Givers:

- Do the care givers enjoy children?
- Are the children greeted when they arrive?
- Do they respond quickly to children's needs?
- Do they play with the children?
- Are they gentle in handling children?
- Do they meet with parents on a regular basis?
- Are parents encouraged to get involved?

- Does the care giver take continuing education classes?
- Will the care giver tell you what your child is doing each day?
- Do the care giver's attitudes toward children match your own?
- Is the care giver's style appropriate for your child's age and temperament?
- If there were a disagreement, would you be comfortable discussing it with the care giver?
- *Are caregivers the role model you want for your child?*

Activities:

- Are activities varied and age-appropriate?
- Do the children play outdoors each day? Is the outdoor area safe?
- Can the care givers see the entire outdoor play area at all times?
- Is there a clear schedule for meals, naps, playtimes, story time, and quiet time?
- Are snacks and meals nutritious and well balanced?
- Are there plenty of toys, learning materials and books for the children?
- Are parents welcome to spend time there?
- Would the size of the group allow your child to get the attention he/she needs?
- Are the activities enjoyable?

Environment:

- Are the children happy?
- Is the atmosphere pleasant and bright?
- Is the classroom big enough for the children?
- Can the children reach the toys and learning materials?

Trust your instincts. If you feel you need to visit again, do it! You are the best judge of what your child needs.

Where Can I Direct Complaints Inquiries?

The Child Care unit receives a lot of inquiry calls regarding the history of a child care provider. There is some information within the unit that is accessible to families. Call Montgomery County DSS in Troy at (910) 576-6531 for an initial inquiry. For a complete history, contact the NC Division of Child Development at 1-800-859-0829. Ask for Customer Service. They will need the name of the provider and the location by county. Ask for a compliance and report history. Information can not be given over the phone. The reports and findings will be sent through the mail.

[Star Rated License Information - Overview](http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/parents/pr_sn2_ov_sr.asp)

http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/parents/pr_sn2_ov_sr.asp

For more information, contact:

Soundra McRae, Work First Unit Supervisor

Email: soundra.mcrae@ncmail.net

Or

Alicia Higgins, Child Care Casemanager

Email: alicia.higgins@ncmail.net